

New Jersey Lottery

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Benefits Education and Institutions



New Jersey
Lottery

News

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LOTTERY TICKETS AREN'T CHILD'S PLAY: THIS HOLIDAY SEASON GIVE RESPONSIBLY

TRENTON, N.J. (Dec. 2, 2014) - The holiday season is rapidly approaching and, once again, the New Jersey Lottery has joined forces with the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey, Inc. to discourage the gifting of lottery tickets to minors this holiday season. The NJ Lottery and the Council continually work together to discourage underage gambling and to promote responsible gambling.

Lottery tickets are easy choices to slip into a gift or holiday card and are popular as stocking stuffers. They are generally affordable, colorful and easily available.

New Jersey law requires lottery purchasers to be 18 years of age. While the law does not prohibit adults from giving tickets to minors, research suggests this may not always be a good idea.

Just as with alcohol, drugs and tobacco use, gambling at an early age can increase the risk of developing a gambling problem. According to a recent Yale University study, youngsters who received instant tickets as a gift tended to begin gambling earlier in life. Adult problem gamblers frequently report beginning gambling during childhood, often at ages 9-10 and with other family members. There also is strong evidence that 70 to 80 percent of adolescents have gambled for money in the past year, and 30 percent are gambling on a weekly basis.

The Council on Compulsive Gambling of NJ urges parents to use good judgment in making holiday gift selections for their children. According to Donald Weinbaum, Executive Director of the Council, "Parents really can make a difference and reduce the risk of children developing gambling problems. Let's send the right message this year and refrain from giving lottery tickets to young children."

"The New Jersey Lottery has a longstanding commitment to promoting responsible play and discouraging underage gambling of any kind," said New Jersey Lottery Executive Director Carole Hedinger. "We have an active partnership with the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey, Inc. and support their efforts to prevent underage gambling."

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There is a reason why New Jersey has established minimum ages for gambling activities. So this holiday season, if you choose to give a lottery ticket as a gift, be sure to consider the age of the recipient.

About the New Jersey Lottery

Since its inception in 1970, the New Jersey Lottery (NJLottery.net) has contributed more than \$22 billion to the State in support of education and institutions. In fiscal year 2013 the Lottery's contribution was more than \$1 billion. Among its beneficiaries are: veterans homes, colleges and universities, school nutrition programs, homes for the developmentally disabled, psychiatric hospitals, higher education scholarship programs and the Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf.

About The Council on Compulsive Gambling of NJ, Inc.

The Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey, Inc. is a private non-profit organization that provides information, education and referral services for people affected by a gambling problem. The Council's mission is to educate the public to the fact that compulsive gambling is a treatable illness. The Council's 1-800-GAMBLER® Helpline and website www.800gambler.org have been resources for thousands of people who are compulsive gamblers and recovering from compulsive gambling, as well as their friends and families.

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